

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 25, 2011

Susan J. Nelson, AIA
Regulatory Affairs
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Quad 3D, GO1
Rosemead, CA 91770

RE: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), Segments 4-11: Variance Request (VR) #38

Dear Ms. Nelson,

On February 23, 2011, Southern Californian Edison (SCE) submitted a variance request to expanded an approved Wire Setup Site (WSS) located west of Tower M55-T2, just east of the 57 Freeway, on Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) - West (Phase 4), in the City of Diamond Bar, Los Angeles County, California. As presented on the figure provided with the variance request, the subject WSS would double in size to approximately 250' x 100'. **This Variance Request is approved by CPUC based on the following factors:**

- SCE submitted the following information:

SCE requests a Variance to allow use of an expanded Wire Setup Site (WSS) located west of Tower M55-T2, just east of the 57 Freeway, on Segment 8 Transmission Line (T/L) – West (Phase 4) of TRTP in the City of Diamond Bar, Los Angeles County. Subsequent to the approval of the NTPR (NTP #24 dated January 12, 2011) by the CPUC, project site conditions have been further evaluated and the expansion of a WSS has been proposed to the west of Tower M55-T2.

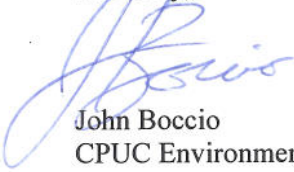
- **Biological Resources:** SCE submitted a letter from ICF International dated February 16, 2011 regarding the proposed variance request for the Segment 8 T/L West (Phase 4) expanded WSS west of Tower M55-T2. The Project Component is mapped as California annual grassland, open water, and southern arroyo willow riparian forest (ICF 2010nn). The portions of the Project Component mapped as open water and southern arroyo willow riparian forest are part of jurisdictional feature 8-31-S-1 and will be flagged and avoided. Due to the topography, both the open water and southern arroyo willow riparian forest portions of the Project Component, which are located within Brea Canyon, will not be utilized. Southwestern pond turtle have been previously observed within the Project Component (AMEC 2009q), and were confirmed present within Brea Canyon during two-striped and south coast garter snakes focused surveys (ICF and BonTerra 2010e). Other species observed within a 500-foot buffer of the Project Component include willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, coast live oak, and potential solitary bat roost habitat (AMEC 2009n, ICF 2010ss, 2010at, 2010av, and 2011y). No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.
- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** The WSS west of Tower M55-T2 was analyzed in the Segment 8 T/L West (Phase 4) cultural resources review. A cultural resources records search was previously conducted for the TRTP project area which encompasses the current study (Pacific Legacy 2007). Results of the records searches indicate that portions of the current Project area have been previously surveyed for cultural resources. As a result of these studies, no cultural resources have been recorded within the Project area and two historic-period isolates are located within a one-mile radius. Both isolates are located

approximately ½ mile north and south of the proposed access road and will not be impacted by the Project. No additional impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.

The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

- Mitigation Measure B-24 and conditions of the CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement 1600 Permit shall be implemented in regards to southwestern pond turtles.
- All conditions required by NTP #24 shall apply to the subject area and activities.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, NTP #24, and this Variance shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities where applicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Boccio", is written over the typed name.

John Boccio
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen